



State Representatives Joel Kretz & Shelly Short

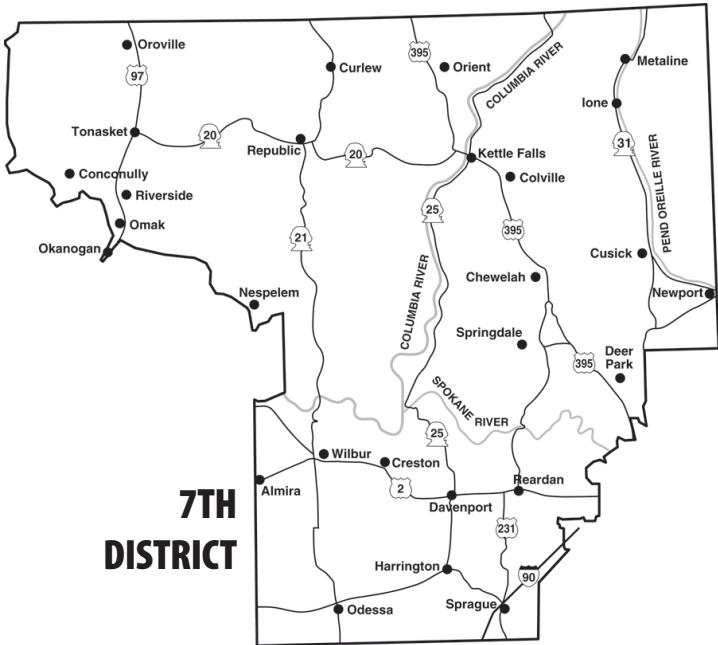
NEED ASSISTANCE NAVIGATING A STATE AGENCY OR FINDING A STATE SERVICE? CONTACT US!

We are your representatives and you hired us to work for you. If we can help you navigate a state agency or find a service for you or a family member, please contact us. We and our legislative aides assist constituents year-round.

WE ARE AVAILABLE TO SPEAK

If you need a speaker at your local community group or would like a legislative update, please contact us.

*The American dream is one
of opportunity, prosperity
and freedom*



7TH
DISTRICT

Rep. Joel Kretz
Rep. Shelly Short
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

2010 Legislative Review

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OLYMPIA WA
PERMIT NO 92

STATE REPRESENTATIVES Joel Kretz & Shelly Short 7th Legislative District Report



Representative
Joel Kretz

DISTRICT OFFICE:
20 North Main Street
P.O. Box 1
Omak, WA 98841
(509) 826-7203

OLYMPIA OFFICE:
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
Phone: (360) 786-7988

Kretz.Joel@leg.wa.gov

www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Kretz

LEADERSHIP

- Deputy Republican Leader

COMMITTEES:

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Ecology and Parks
- Environmental Health
- Rules



Representative
Shelly Short

DISTRICT OFFICE:
147 N. CLARK AVE., STE. 5
P.O. BOX 184
REPUBLIC, WA 99166
(509) 775-8047

OLYMPIA OFFICE:
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
Phone: (360) 786-7908

Short.Shelly@leg.wa.gov

www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Short

COMMITTEES:

- Ecology and Parks, Ranking Member
- General Government Appropriations
- Local Government & Housing
- Government Audit, Review & Oversight

TOLL-FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE:
1-800-562-6000

HEARING-IMPAIRED HOTLINE:
1-800-635-9993

Dear friends,

It was an honor to represent you again this year – a year of unprecedented challenges that highlighted the difference in political philosophies. We want to thank each and every constituent who called, wrote and e-mailed us. We received a lot of correspondence and are pleased to see so many people engaged in their government. We represent the people of the district – not just ourselves and your feedback helped us represent you in ways that we hope make you proud.

The 2010 regular, 60-day legislative session began January 11 and ended March 11. Most of you are aware of the rift between the House and Senate Democrats over the record-setting tax hike proposal – nearly \$800 million in new taxes – to fill the \$2.8 billion spending gap. This dispute prompted the governor to call a 30-day special session of the Legislature, which cost taxpayers roughly \$14,000 each day. All the while, we believe we could have solved the budget mess without tax increases and saved taxpayers the additional costs of the special session.

This newsletter gives you brief updates on issues of importance to 7th District residents. Most importantly, our year-round contact information is included so you can call, e-mail or write us with questions, concerns, ideas and solutions. If there are issues you would like more information about or have questions, please feel free to contact our district offices anytime.

Thank you, again, for your support and feedback. We look forward to meeting with you and your community groups over the next several months.

Sincerely,

Rep. Joel Kretz
7th Legislative District

Rep. Shelly Short
7th Legislative District



Inside:

- Budget and taxes
- Jobs and the economy
- Report wolf sightings
- House Bill 2925 addresses impact fees owed to Pend Oreille County
- Substitute House Bill 2402 helps farmers markets thrive
- Need assistance navigating a state agency or finding a state service? Contact us!



State Representatives Joel Kretz & Shelly Short

BUDGET AND TAXES:

WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT



(Left to Right) *Jim McCroskey (Pend Oreille County Assessor), Rep. Short, Rep. Kretz, Rachel Siracuse (Ferry County Assessor), Scott Furman (Okanogan County Assessor)*

- 74 percent support no tax increases with more cuts to government;
- 4 percent support an increase in taxes with minimal or no cuts to government;
- 16 percent support a combination of tax increases and moderate cuts to government; and
- 6 percent are not sure how to solve the budget shortfall.

On this call and in the many e-mails and contacts, the no-new-taxes message was clear! As your representatives, you elected us to be your voice in the state Legislature. **We work for you** and our votes on taxes and other issues reflect your feedback.

VOTER-APPROVED TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT (I-960) REPEALED
The 2007 statewide voter-approved Taxpayer Protection Act (I-960) required a two-thirds vote of the Legislature, or a vote of the people, to raise taxes. Initiative 960 passed with more than 60 percent support in the 7th District.

Unfortunately, the majority party overturned I-960 this year by passing Senate Bill 6130, which made it easier to increase taxes. We cannot have a healthy debate around streamlining and reforming government and spending when the only solution Democrats put on the table is an nearly \$800 million tax package, and then ram it through in a way that snubs voters’ wishes.

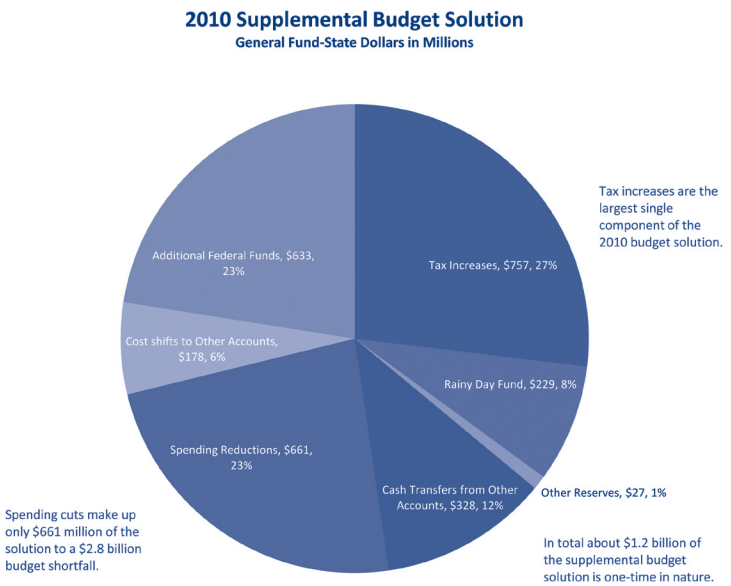
Taxpayers deserve a more responsive and transparent government that works toward **reforms first** and taxes as a last resort. There is only so much citizens can afford, and from what we have heard 7th District residents cannot afford to pay for a bigger and more expensive government.

BALANCING ACT: TAXES, FEES AND FUND RAIDS

After Democrats repealed the Taxpayer Protection Act, more than 75 different tax and fee proposals were put forward totaling more than \$3 billion in new and higher taxes. Our hope was Democrats would have seriously considered the impact tax increases will have on employers, struggling families and our economy.

We understand the need to budget for critical services that assist the most vulnerable, such as the developmentally disabled and those in long-term care facilities, but our belief is that those services are core state responsibilities and should be a priority in the budget, not a last thought. Unfortunately, budget writers failed to prioritize state spending, which only serves to hurt those services we care about the most.

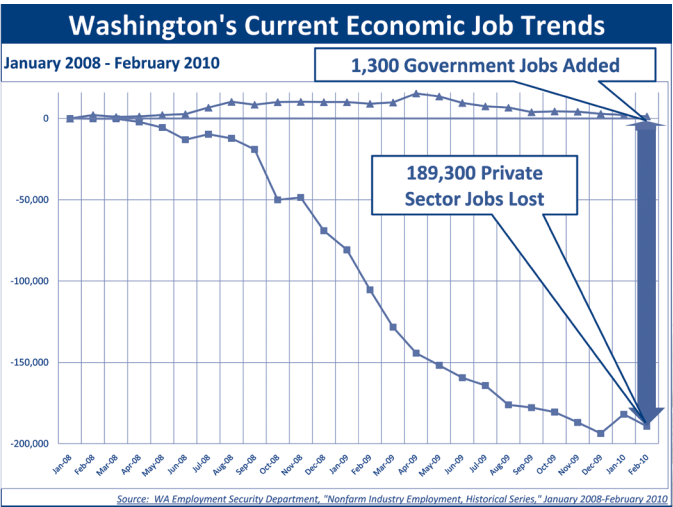
In the end, the majority party added nearly \$800 million in new and higher taxes on citizens and employers, but failed to find many efficiencies in government. In addition to the B&O tax increases, budget writers added taxes to beer, bottled water, canned meats, gum and candy, among a host of other items. Adding insult to injury, millions more in one-time federal money and fund transfers, which will not be available when we write the next two-year budget, were used to fill the spending gap. Here is a chart that illustrates how the budget gap was filled:



This is why we could not support the governor and her majority party in the Legislature to raid taxpayers’ wallets again to plug the \$2.8 billion spending gap. We cannot tax our way out of this recession. The private sector and the jobs created by hard-working entrepreneurs will turn our economy around and create the prosperity that will lift every citizen up.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY:

According to the state Employment Security Department’s data from January 2008 through February 2010, more than 189,300 folks in the private sector lost their jobs. Meanwhile, government at all levels grew by more than 1,300 jobs!



2010 Legislative Review

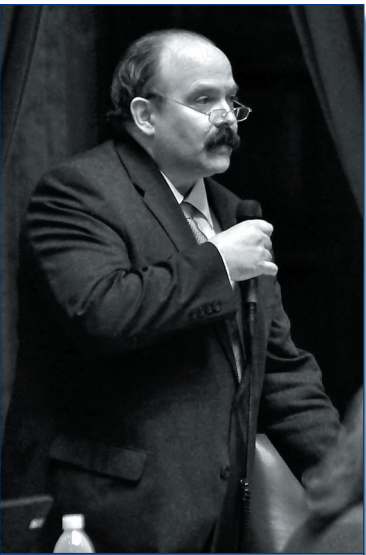
Folks, this is unsustainable and irresponsible. We do not believe that growing government is meaningful economic development. We do need staff in our schools and our fire and police stations, but if there is one sure-fire way to guarantee higher taxes on individuals and employers, it is allowing government to grow out of control.

OUR SOLUTIONS FOCUS ON PUTTING PEOPLE BACK TO WORK

Our simple philosophy is this: healthy employers generate taxes that pay for essential state services. Employers create the jobs that give citizens income to spend, which also produces tax revenue. That’s why House Republicans proposed a package of common-sense, pro-jobs solutions again this year called “Made in Washington.” Our bills would have:

- Addressed employer payroll taxes that are some of the highest in the nation, which is crippling the ability of small businesses to retain and hire staff;
- Cut state agency red tape;
- Created a health care marketplace that fosters an affordable and accessible system;
- Ensured affordable and abundant energy; and
- Enacted policies that ensure a fiscally responsible budget that spends within current tax collections.

We cannot stress enough how hard we worked to promote a different budget direction – one that relies on private-sector job creation, limited taxation and state government reforms. While the majority rejected our ideas this year, we will continue to work to create jobs and get spending and taxes under control.



Kretz speaking on the House floor during legislative debate this year.

HOUSE BILL 2925 ADDRESSES IMPACT FEES OWED TO PEND OREILLE COUNTY

A coalition of Pend Oreille County officials worked with us this legislative session to successfully pass House Bill 2925, which finally breaks the deadlock on the Boundary Dam lease agreement between Pend Oreille County and Seattle City Light. Sen. Bob Morton also played a key role in helping make sure this issue was settled this year.

The major sticking point was the lease payments were not keeping pace with the rising value of property and energy production. House Bill 2925 addresses the

financial impact of hydroelectric energy facilities and generation in counties, specifically Pend Oreille County. The legislation increases lease payments to ensure they are up-to-date to reflect today’s costs to counties that site facilities or already operate one.

Our effort to address the impasse between Seattle City Light and Pend Oreille County would not have been successful without the help of county commissioners and others who came to Olympia and made calls to keep the conversation about the issue alive. Now, we can move forward with solutions and a plan for the future of Boundary Dam.

REPORT WOLF SIGHTINGS

How to report a suspected wolf sighting or kill: If you have livestock or a family pet you suspect was killed by a wolf attack, here are the steps you should take:

- **Preserve the animal carcass** as best you can by covering the remains with a tarp and any scat and tracks in the area with cans for examination by wildlife officials.
- **Make a report.** Report sightings of a wolf or wolf tracks, or suspected wolf depredation on livestock, by contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in eastern Washington at **(509) 891-6839** or **toll-free at 1-888-584-9038**.
- **Avoid walking in and around the area** and do not touch anything. Try to keep all people and animals away from the area to protect evidence.
- **Contact our district offices.** We are keeping track of the number and location of reports to get a handle on suspected sightings and depredation reports.



SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2402 HELPS FARMERS MARKETS THRIVE

Substitute House Bill 2402 will allow non-profit organizations and churches to retain their property tax exemptions when loaning or renting out their property to qualified farmers markets for up to 53 days per year, as opposed to the law’s previous 15-day time limit.

Rep. Short worked with Republican and Democrat colleagues to amend her bill (SHB 2439) onto the proposal and helped guide the legislation through the process.

With local economies continuing to struggle, and with families trying to keep food on the table, farmers markets are playing a more vital role for both. Farmers markets are becoming an important tool for local farmers to sell and market their produce. With the economic situation we’re in now, and with the increasing competition from around the globe, **local farmers markets play a critical role in helping our farmers survive.**



Rep. Short discusses legislation on the House floor with a colleague.